

Shaun's story

Hi, my name is Shaun and I am 17. I like hanging out with my friends, the Bombers (Essendon Football Club) and girls—all pretty normal teenage stuff really. But my life hasn't always been that normal.

Here is my story.

I have had two heart transplants. Yes, two. When I was born I had a problem with my heart. By the time I was eight I couldn't run, I was tired all the time and I wasn't growing. The doctors said I needed a new heart. I didn't really understand why, but I cried with happiness when the doctor told me I would be able to play footy like the other kids.

One night about 11pm the hospital rang and said they had a new heart for me. I had an operation that lasted 14 hours and then I was given a new life at eight. I played my first footy game and I went swimming. I loved playing with the other kids and keeping up!

Nearly five years later, when I was 13, the doctors found another problem with my heart. My heart was not working again. But a second miracle occurred and I was lucky enough to have a second heart transplant. How can one person be so lucky?

That was four years ago now, and I am doing really, really, really well. When I finish school I want to be a nurse so I can help sick kids like I was—because I know what a big difference the nurses make.

I was chosen to be an ambassador for 'Heart Kids'—a support group specifically for kids with heart problems. As an ambassador I talk about my life and help them to stay positive.

I want the families that helped me to know that I am living life to the fullest for them and for me. My motto is stay positive, and never, never, never give up. You never know what tomorrow will bring.

Shaun



Sadly Shaun passed away in May 2012. Shaun had been battling a chronic heart condition and was told by doctors he would not have long to live after his body began rejecting a second heart transplant.